

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended): A powder composition comprising at least one fat-soluble vitamin, ~~wherein a vitamin~~ is dispersed in a matrix consisting essentially of an emulsion-forming composition selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide gum, a mixture of polysaccharide gums, a protein, a mixture of proteins, and mixtures thereof, wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is present in the powder composition in the form of solid droplets having an average diameter of about 70 to about 150 nanometers (nm).

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide gum is isolated from the group consisting of plants, animals and microbial sources.

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Claim 4. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of exudate gums, seaweed gums, seed gums, microbial gums, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide gum is selected from the group consisting of gum arabic, flaxseed gum, ghatti gum, tamarind gum, arabinogalactan, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 5 wherein the polysaccharide gum is gum arabic.

Claim 7. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the protein is isolated from a plant or an animal source.

Claim 8. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 7 wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of sunflower proteins, soy-bean proteins, cotton seed proteins, peanut proteins, rape seed proteins, milk proteins, blood

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proteins, egg proteins, acetylated derivatives thereof, gelatine, crosslinked gelatine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 8 wherein the protein is gelatine.

Claim 10. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E or its esters, vitamin A or its esters, vitamin K (phytomenadione), vitamin D₃ (cholecalciferol), and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 11. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 10 wherein the fat-soluble vitamin is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E acetate, vitamin A acetate, vitamin A palmitate, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:99 to about 3:1.

Claim 13. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 12 wherein the ratio of fat-soluble vitamin to matrix component is from about 1:8 to 1:1.

Claim 14. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises from about 15 to about 40% by weight of a fat-soluble vitamin and from about 60 to 85% by weight of a matrix component, based on the total weight of all the components present in the composition.

Claim 15. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 14 wherein the composition has a moisture content of about 1-4% by weight.

Claim 16. (Withdrawn).

Claim 17. (Original): A powder composition according to claim 1, which is formed into a tablet.

Claims 18-27. (Withdrawn).